

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SCUL, SOPN, PROP, GE, US

SUBJECT: DRESDEN PUBLICITY

1. SPECIAL MAY 21 EDITION OF WASHINGTON POST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO OPENING OF NATIONAL GALLERY'S EAST WING
FEATURES EIGHT-PAGE PREVIEW OF DRESDEN EXHIBIT AND
THREE-PAGE GDR ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING
SUBSTANTIVE "MESSAGES" FROM CULTURE MINISTER HOFFMANN
AND AMBASSADOR SIEBER AND AN INNOCUOUS BLURB FROM
FOREIGN TRADE STATE SECRETARY BEIL.

2. HOFFMANN'S MESSAGE STATES THAT, IN AGREEING TO
EXHIBIT THAT "HAS BEEN ARRANGED ALTHOUGH NO
CULTURAL AGREEMENT EXISTS" BETWEEN US AND GDR, GDR
WAS "GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI"
AND DESIRE TO SHOW THAT GDR IS "SERIOUS ABOUT
CARRYING OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE."
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NOTING THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAD OFFERED TO SEND
INAUGURAL EXHIBITS TO THE GALLERY, IT SHOULD, HE SAID,
BE SEEN AS "A TRIBUTE TO AN APPRECIATION OF THE
CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GDR THAT OUR COUNTRY
HAS BEEN CHOSEN." THE EXHIBIT, WHICH SHOWS" THE
DEVASTATION OF DRESDEN AT THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II AND HOW
THE SOVIET UNION IN AN ACT OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

SAVED THESE TREASURES OF HUMAN CULTURE FROM RUIN," IS
"LIVING AND CONVINCING PROOF THAT MANKIND'S BEST
HUMANISTIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IS PRESERVED, CARED
FOR AND CONTINUING UNDER SOCIALISM." IT WILL, HE
CONCLUDED, "CONTRIBUTE TO PROVIDING A REALISTIC
PICTURE OF THE GDR...AND HELP REDUCE PREJUDICES
OR ANTICOMMUNIST CLICHES ABOUT OUR COUNTRY."

3. NOTING THAT GDR'S "POTENTIAL TO OFFER A WIDE
VARIETY OF SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS.... IS FAR FROM
BEING UTILIZED TO ITS FULL CAPACITY" BY US FIRMS,
SIEBER LOOKED TO "COMING DAYS (THAT) WILL BRING MEETINGS
BETWEEN SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE US AND GDR."
"GIVEN THE READINESS, EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN
HIGH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONDUCIVE TO
FURTHERING BOTH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE
INTERNATIONAL PROCESS OF DETENTE."

4. LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED PREVIEW OF EXHIBIT CONTAINS
CUT OF DESTRUCTION SCENE OF GRUNDIG'S "THOUSAND
YEAR REICH" AND SEVERAL REFERENCES TO CITY'S
DESTRUCTION BY ALLIED BOMBERS. THE DRESDEN COLLECTION,
ARTICLE CLAIMS, WAS "RECOVERED BY THE SOVIET ARMIES AT
THE END OF THE WAR AND TAKEN BACK TO RUSSIA FOR
SAFEKEEPING."

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5. FULL TEXT OF HOFFMANN AND SIEBER MESSAGES
BEING SENT VIA USINFO AND ENTIRE MAGAZINE BEING
POUCHED.

6. HOUR-LONG PBS SHOW ON EXHIBIT WILL BE TELEVISED
NATIONALLY AT 9:00 P.M. JUNE 27.

7. ALREADY EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY FOR EXHIBIT SHOULD
PEAK OVER WEEKEND JUST BEFORE FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S
ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. IN THIS REGARD, WE EXPECT
HOFFMANN TO MAKE GOOD USE OF PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAS
SCHEDULED FOR MAY 31. VANCE

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